

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
HA-05 OIC-02 ACDA-12 OES-09 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 COME-00 /146 W
-----121989 201830Z /50

O R 201700Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8988
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION UN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MASERU 1579

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, LT
SUBJECTC UN SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN MASERU, JULY 17-22, 1978,

REF: A. STATE 183338, STATE 183172, B. MASERU 1568,

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SYMPOSIUM'S FOURTH DAY, THEORETICALLY RESERVED
FOR DISCUSSION OF "CULTURAL EXPLOITATION IN SOUTH AFRICA AND
NAMIBIA", BROUGHT WIDE-RANGE OF STATEMENTS, MOST OF THEM ONLY
MARGINALLY RELATED TO CULTURE. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON LEGITIMACY
OF VIOLENCE IN ENDING APARTHEID. STATEMENTS BEGAN WITH COMPLAINT
OF USSR REP ABOUT "UNACCEPTABLE" FAILURES OF SYMPOSIUM SECRETARIAT
IN PROVIDING TEXTS, ARRANGING PRESS COVERAGE, ETC. FOLLOWING
TEDIOUS INTRODUCTION BY SECRETARIAT REP CASANUEVA OF PAPER BEARING
SAME TITLE AS THE DAY'S AGENDA ITEM, PARTICIPANTS OF THE FOLLOWING
COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS SPOKE: UK, POLAND, U.S. ZAIRE, PLO,
ANC, SENEGAL, UPPER VOLTA, CANADA (NON-GOVERNMENT PARTICIPANT), PAC,
IVORY COAST, ANC (SA), STUDENT REP COUNCIL OF LESOTHO, ANC
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(ESOTHO), AND LESOTHO. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF FINAL DAY OF
SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSION. TOMORROW IS RESERVED FOR DRAFTING WITH FINAL
DISCUSSION ON RECOMMENDATIONS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JULY 22.
END SUMMARY.

2. USSR (LAPTEV) ASKED FOR FLOOR AT OUTSET TO COMPLAIN ABOUT
SECRETARIAT'S FAILURE TO CIRCULATE TEXTS, INCLUDING TELEGRAM SENT

SECGEN WALDHEIM TWO DAYS AGO, INACCURATE REFLECTION OF USSR'S VIEWS IN ONE CONFERENCE DOCUMENT, LACK OF EFFECTIVE WORK BY PRESS SPOKESMAN TO INSURE CONFERENCE COVERAGE, ETC. CHAIRMAN AND REPRESENTATIVE OF SECGEN ACKNOWLEDGED AND REGRETTED DELAYS IN CIRCULATING DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE ASCRIBED TO TECHNICAL FAILURES, AND NOTED THAT THE SINGLE PRESS OFFICER HAD SUCCEEDED IN STIMULATING A NUMBER OF PRESS ARTICLES. USSR PARTICIPANT REJOINED BY STRONGLY CRITICIZING SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIA COVERAGE.

3. SECRETARIAT (CASANUEVA) INTRODUCED CONFERENCE DOCUMENT ON CULTURAL EXPLOITATION IN TWENTY MINUTE REVIEW OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL DEPRIVATION OF PEOPLES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ESPECIALLY NAMIBIA.

4. UK (GORE) SPOKE BRIEFLY AND TO THE POINT, TOUCHING KEY ISSUES AND ALLEGATIONS AFFECTING UK, I.E. COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL CHANGE VS. VIOLENCE, CATEGORICALLY DENYING NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH RSA, NOTING SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BLS AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA AND ALLUDING TO PROSPECT OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA.

5. POLAND (MAKOWSKI) DWELT ON UN RESOLUTIONS AND PROBLEM OF GETTING SAG TO COMPLY WITH THEM. HE SUGGESTED THERE WAS CONTRADICTION BETWEEN WESTERN OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID ON THE ONE HAND AND WESTERN ASSISTANCE TO SAG "INCLUDING MILITARY" ON THE OTHER.

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6. U.S. (NORLAND) USED TIMELY, RELEVANT AND HELPFUL GUIDANCE (REF A) AND DREW ON OTHER TEXTS RECENTLY RECEIVED, TO DEPLORE APARTHEID AND RACIAL INJUSTICE, AFFIRM U.S. POLICY OF PEACEFUL CHANGE, REVIEW PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA AND NOTED U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES OF THE AREA, INCLUDING SOUTHERN PERIMETER ROAD IN LESOTHO.

7. PLO PARTICIPANT ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH STRUGGLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN "AS ONE OPPRESSED AND EXPLOITED PEOPLE TO ANOTHER". HE DISMISSED POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING CHANGE IN RSA WITHOUT VIOLENCE. HE URGED DISINVESTMENT AND CRITICIZED THE WEST FOR IGNORING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

8. ZAIRE, SENEGAL, UPPER VOLTA AND IVORY COAST TOUCHED ON IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, SEVERAL OF THEM NOTING THAT ECONOMIC WELL-BEING IS NOT MEANINGFUL WITHOUT CULTURAL FOUNDATION AND ITS FREE EXPRESSION.

9. CANADA (NON-GOVERNMENT REP) SAID VIOLENCE WAS SO PERVASIVE HE DID NOT BELIEVE CHANGE WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT IT. HOWEVER, HE FOUND IT OF NO USE TO "BLAME IMPERIALISM FOR EVERYTHING". TAKING NOTE OF UK CONCERN ABOUT CUTTING OFF COMMUNICATIONS, CANADIAN PARTICIPANT

SAID SANCTIONS WERE NECESSARY IN THE CASE OF APARTHEID.

10. ANC (MAHARAJ) ASKED TO INTERVENE AGAIN TO REPORT RESULTS OF LUNCH TIME CONSULTATIONS DURING WHICH IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT SYMPOSIUM HAD REACHED THE CRUX OF THE ISSUE IN THE QUESTION "HOW CAN CHANGE BE EFFECTED AND WHO IS TO BRING IT ABOUT"? IN NON-POLEMICAL STYLE HE RECALLED LAGOS DECLARATION OF AUGUST 1977 WHICH HE SAID RECOGNIZED "THE RIGHT OF OPPORESSED PEOPLE TO OVERTHROW MINORITY RULE BY WHATEVER MEANS, INCLUDING ARMED STRUGGLE". HE URGED SYMPOSIUM TO STATE CLEARLY WHETHER THIS RIGHT WAS INDEED RECOGNIZED AND SUGGESTED DELEGATION WITH DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION BE ASKED TO STATE THEIR RESERVATIONS.

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11. LESOTHO (KOTSOKOANE) IN CONCLUDING INTERVENTION DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AS "TOO TENSE" AND SUGGESTED PARTICIPANTS "RELAX AND TELL THE TRUTH". HE WANTED TO CLARIFY POINT THAT HE BELIEVED IN ECONOMIC ACTION BUT ONLY IF IT WAS SUFFICIENTLY FIGOROUS TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE. "UNLESS ECONOMIC ACTION IS AN ONSLAUGHT", HE SUPPORTED ARMED STRUGGLE AS THE "ONLY OTHER OPPORTUNITY" TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE. HE EFFECTIVELY RIDICULED THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RACE SEPARATION, SAG IDEOLOGY IN DEFENSE OF IT AND USED HUMOR IN SO DOING IN A WAY THAT BROUGHT LAUGHTER AND BRIEF BURST OF APPLAUSE FROM THE PARTICIPANTS AND GALLERIES. (THIS WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY REACTION FROM THE GALLERIES THROUGHOUT THE FOUR DAYS OF

DISCUSSION).

12. COMMENT: THE ANC REP HAS INDEED IDENTIFIED THE "CRUX" OF THE DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE EMERGED. HIS INTERPRETATION OF LAGOS DECLARATION AS JUSTIFYING ARMED STRUGGLE TO OVERTHROW OPPRESSORS IS AT ODDS WITH POSITION OF WESTERN COUNTRIES, STRESSING RELIANCE ON PEACEFUL CHANGE AND NEGOTIATION. THE SYMPOSIUM IS CLEARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLARIZED AROUND THIS POINT WITH AFRICAN DELEGATIONS SUPPORTING, WITH VARYING DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM, THE CALLS FOR ARMED STRUGGLE, VIOLENCE, SANCTIONS AND OSTRACISM OF RSA. UK AND US WERE GIVEN CORRECT AND ATTENTIVE HEARING AND REACTION WAS MILD, I.E. LATER REFERENCES BY LIBERATION LEADERS TOOK ISSUE WITH POLICY OF PEACEFUL CHANGE IN CONTRAST TO THEIR OWN VIEW THAT NON-VIOLENCE IS A TRIED BUT INEFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST APARTHEID. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S INTERPRETATION OF LAGOS DECLARATION CONCERNING JUSTIFICATION OF ARMED STRUGGLE. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY BY COG JULY 21 IN TIME FOR USE DURING DISCUSSION OF CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN THE ISSUE IS CERTAIN TO ARISE.

13. TEXTS OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS BY SEPTELS.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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